



NEPA Compliance for the Rulemaking

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires that major Federal actions, such as the rulemaking for alternative energy and alternate use, be examined in light of potential environmental impacts.

What has MMS done to assure compliance with NEPA in developing this regulation?

- Prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to use for planning purposes during program development and rulemaking. The PEIS evaluated potential impacts from the development of wind, wave, and ocean current projects and the alternate use of OCS structures,
- Held scoping meetings and public hearings in 10 coastal states to receive comments from the public during the process of preparing the PEIS,
- Established a website, ocsenergy.anl.gov, to share the PEIS and other relevant program information with the public,
- Published a Record of Decision that included initial policies and best management practices for the program, and
- Prepared a draft Environmental Assessment for the propose rule, evaluating the potential environmental impacts from provisions in the rule and the indirect impacts that may result from activities that may be authorized under the rule. The draft EA is available for public comment, and a final EA will be published with the final rule.

What are the key dates associated with the PEIS and EA?

✓ Issue Draft PEIS	March 2007
✓ Issue Final PEIS	October 2007
✓ Issue Record of Decision	January 2008
Issue Draft EA	July 9, 2008
Close comment period on EA	September 8, 2008
Issue Final EA	December 2008

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